



Holmes, Donna &lt;dholmes@palisadesd.org&gt;

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## Community Message - Friday, November 20, 2020

1 message

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**Dr. Bridget O'Connell** <superintendent@palisadesd.org>

Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

**Dear Palisades Families,**

On this week prior to Thanksgiving, I would like to thank all those that have made the past 12 weeks of in-person learning, the Palisades Cyber Academy, and our extracurriculars a success. What we have accomplished would not have been possible without your support, the dedication of our teachers, coaches, advisors, staff, bus drivers and administrators, and the flexibility, resilience and enthusiasm of our students.

**Reminders:**

1. **Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 (half day), Monday, November 30 and Tuesday, December 1 - virtual instruction for all students**
2. **Monday, November 23rd - meal distribution will take place at each school between the hours of 10 and 10:30AM**
3. **Tuesday, November 24th - Katie Lloyd, Palisades Licensed Counselor, will provide a virtual presentation for all families on Tips, Tricks and Resources for Managing Stress to help children and caregivers navigate anxiety and emotions. Please register by November 23rd for this event: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16jPgDbsO2mAK5qAtTZDy4A11xe31pkhp2qkJRjQ8UQU/edit?ts=5fa54aee&gxids=7757>**
4. **Emails were sent to custodial parents/guardians yesterday regarding 2nd semester mode of education and transportation changes; only if you require a change to your child's mode of education (face to face or online) or if you are changing use of transportation for your child, please complete the google form linked in that communication. Requests for changes are due on Wednesday, December 9th.**

**Information in several areas including:**

1. **Bucks County Department of Health - unannounced visits**
2. **Updated masking order - mask breaks**
3. **COVID notification update**

### **1. Bucks County Department of Health - unannounced visits**

This week, the Bucks County Department of Health conducted a spot inspection of both Palisades High School and Palisades Middle School. I am pleased to announce that both schools received a perfect 70 out of 70 score. The inspector was impressed with sanitation procedures, classroom setups, mask wearing and social distancing procedures. When the inspector was in a hallway during a class change at the high school, she commented on how orderly and smooth the students were following procedures. She also commented on our lunch area setups.

**Congratulations to the students and staff of both Palisades High School and Palisades Middle School for your commitment to health and safety.**

### **2. Updated Masking Order**

Earlier this week, Dr. Levine, the PA Secretary of Health, identified a number of changes to the universal masking order; however, there are no changes to when students are permitted to remove their masks. More specifically, schools may continue to allow students to remove their face coverings when they are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least six feet apart
- At least six feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes

**Note:** When case investigations (for positive cases) are occurring in our schools, we are walking through the student’s or employee’s interactions with others to determine if close contact occurred (15 minutes or more and less than 6 feet). Masking breaks can only be taken when students are 6 feet apart and they may not exceed 10 minutes.

Here is the complete FAQ on updated masking order

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

### 3. Palisades COVID Notification Process

Last week I shared that I have changed the COVID dashboard in the following ways:

- The first several weeks when we did not have cases were condensed
- The dashboard is updated when a notification is issued
- The dashboard now includes each elementary building
- Students counts include both in person and remote learners (not new) but now the dashboard differentiates between the two

As a result of these changes, which will provide you with an up to date district-wide view of what is occurring with our COVID cases, beginning on Monday, November 23rd, we will no longer send district wide notifications regarding a positive case. You will continue to receive notifications if the affected student or employee is in the building in which your child(ren) attend. You can access the district dashboard at any time on the district website under Health and Safety Plan/Communications. You will be taken to a google doc where you will have “view access” to the information. A link to the dashboard will also be included in the PATCH each Friday.

Once again, thank you for your support of our students and staff. And I wish all the best to you and your family during the upcoming holiday break.

Regards,



**Dr. Bridget O'Connell**

**Superintendent**

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